FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011

Messy field Rugby teams play friendly.

Working dogs Newfoundland loves to rescue. Mother's Day It should be every day: Duma

Health care
No. 1 priority says mayor.
Page 19



INPORTANEWS

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ AWARDS: Top kids in south Niagara

■ MPP: Wealth of knowledge Haggerty worked hard for constituents

DAVE JOHNSON

PORT COLBORNE — Ray Haggerty was a real gentleman who worked hard for the constituents in his riding when he was an MPP and was there for them even after he retired, said those who knew him. See HAGGERTY | page 2





WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Austin Coverdale and Zoe Walters, finalists in the the Tribune's Great Kids of South Niagara program hold personalized news pages outlining their accoumplishment. Other finalists in the six categories were: Jackson Root, Cynthia Malivert, Jake

Great day for Great Kids

WAYNE CAMPBELL InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Tears, cheers, pride and hope for the future filled the Welland Lions Club last Sunday during a Great Kids of South Niagara Gala and Awards Ceremony.

The Tribune's sixth annual search for great stories about great kids culminated in the reading of 24 outlining the accomplishments of

semifinalists.
Six finalists emerged in six categories of kindness, striving against the odds and personal achievement. They are Austin Coverdale, Cynthia Malivert, Jake Sokoloski, Tabitha Tonnies, lackson Root and Zoe

Walters.

But they were only the tip
of the program. As event coor-

dinator Karin Vanderzee, The Tribune's circulation manger, pointed out the selection process began with more than 55 nominations from Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet. It stretched over more than two months of read-

ing and an almost impossible task of judging. Vanderzee reading from one letter drew out a quote that it

takes only one person to make a difference.
"If it only takes one person, I

"If it only takes one p want to be that person.

Vanderzee, who has organized the event over the six years, told the nominees, "I remain in awe of what you have done. I feel like you're my kids and we're one big happy family."

See KIDS | page 2







11175 GOLF COURSE ROAD, WAINFLEET re farm located just minutes from town sits a lovely 1600 sq. ft 5 bed

ig fireplace and wet Ear. Updates include windows, roof, doors, well & n. Property features 1000 sq. ft, barn, electricity generating rill & pond. \$389,900

■ KIDS

'Ray truly cared about people'

"I knew Ray for 60 years ... he used to work for my cousins. We had a close relationship," said Bob Saracino. who was first elected to Port Colborne council during the time Mr. Haggerty was an MPP for Niagara South riding.

Mr. Haggerty died last Saturday at the age of 88 at Welland hospital and is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marie, his children Dennis, Timothy and Laurie, and his grandchildren Michael. Timothy, Derek, Shane, and Andrew

"He worked hard for the constituents of the riding and brought a wealth of knowledge to the legislature. You could go to him with any problem," said Saracino former mayor of Port Colborne and former regional councillor He said the two attended

many events over the years as politicians and Mr. Haggerty would always help with anything Saracino needed.

The two men kept in contact even after Mr. Haggerty retired from politics in 1991 Saracino said Mr. Haggerty brought over a bunch of medi-

cal and health-related books to his home last year, because he knew Saracino had an interest in those kind of books "He had his own way of

doing things, but he was a wellrespected man. We've lost a good person and I'm going to miss him

Mr. Haggerty began a career as a machinist before his life in politics began. He was deputy reeve in Bertie Township and a Welland councillor before moving into provincial politics in 1967 when ran in the former Niagara South riding. He staved

tree or shi

"Ray truly cared about people, For some people a job is a job. but to Ray it was a lot more than that. He always had people in the nding first on his mind," said

Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey said Mr. Haggerty was always working hard and

was there for people 24/7. "I heard a story that one time he even slept at Queen's Park. People like that are invaluable when representing their constituents.

He cold Mr. Haggerty was a great family person and was a mentor to a lot of people who moved

through the ranks as politicians Man times Ray and I would sit and chat about things. Even after he left politics, he worked hard for people and there were often

and then mayor, he would come to me with an issue he felt had to be dealt with." Badawey said Mr. Haggerty will truly be missed. Ontario Conservative party leader Tim Hudak said Mr.

times when I was councillor.

Haggerty could have probably written a textbook on what it takes to be a successful constituency politician "He worked the riding non-

stop and fought for constituents no matter what their political stripe. He was admirably dedicated to his job"

Hudak, who was first elected as MPP in 1995, said Mr.

as MPP in the riding until he Haggerty had friends across the political spectrum and was extremely well-liked by people across the riding.

bit after I was elected. He was extremely gracious and gave advice ... it was a great help as a rookie MPP."

dedicated to preserving the family farm and had a lasting interest in agricultural issues Visitation was held last Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Williams Funeral Home, 722 Ridge Rd. North, Fort Erie, with the funeral service held at Sherkston Brethren In Christ Church, 5348 Sherkston Rd., Port Colborne, last Thursday

Mr. Haggerty is also survived by his dear pet companions Collie and Tiger, his brothers Jim (Marge) Haggerty and Dick (Jane) Haggerty, sister-in-law Marge Haggerty and sister-inlaw Denise Carpenter. He was pre-deceased by parents Russell and Bernice Haggerty and inlaws John and Jeanne Morvan. brothers Bill (Mae) Haggerty. extended relatives in Dunnville,

Maryland and Pennsylvania. In lieu of flowers donations

"I used to see Ray quite a

He said Mr. Haggerty was

FROM PAGE 1

Keith (Violet) Haggerty, Chuck Haggerty, Jack Haggerty, sisters Shirley (George) Burns, Norma (Joseph) Ahman, brotherin-law Yvon (Carol) Morvan, Gerry Carpenter, sister-in-law Bessie (Rene) Rankin, He will be remembered by many nieces and nephews especially for the Sunday family gatherings down on the farm. Also, many

to the Alzheimer's Society or the Sherkston Brethren In Christ Church in Sherkston. would be appreciated by the diohnson@wellandtrihune.ca

INPORT NEWS FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011

In The Tribune's Great Kids of South Niagara celebration the semifinalists in Personal Best 13 to 18 years category are: from left, Dakota Turner, category finalists Tabitha Tonnies, Holly Sokoloski, Celina Nelson and Great Kids sponsor Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey.

Achievement stories read

A family event it was. Nominees sat surrounded by proud parents, grandparents, friends, brothers and

Tribune managing editor Angus Scott read their stories of personal achievement, heartbreaking challenges and unusual acts of kindness

In Wainfleet, Austin Coverdale planned a crop, planted it, harvested and sold it at a roadside stand to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Carter Keith became a symbolic advocate for increased funding for chil-

dren's treatment centres.

Seven-year-old Tyler

Just for Mom all

and Giftware,

Flowering Crab Apple,

Standard Lilac and

two-year-old burned in a deep fryer accident. Other stories outlined the

courage to overcome bullying and misunderstanding. They told of responding to the call of Me-to-We promoter Craig Kielburger

by the formation of a Kids Helping Kids club at St. Kevin Catholic School. In a special supplement, The Tribune will outline the

semifinalists. Some of the Port Colhorne finalists were Jacob Campbell, Brianna Irvine, Erin Koudijs, Celin Nelson, Tabitha Tonnies and Enzo Lariccia. "You've had a great year

that someone noticed. 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Michael Ross, a last year Great Kids finalist,

Ricker raised money for a said, congratulating the Someone took time to

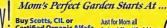
nominate you for all your efforts, hard work compassion and kindness. Hard work always pays off," he

No matter what you do the feeling of success comes after the effort, he told the latest Great Kids nominees

Vanderzee invited parents and friends to take photos and videos throughout the afternoon

"This is your day to celebrate," she said. TV Cogeco will show Great Kids Gala Saturday at

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca



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portraits



■ PRESEASON: Wet field doesn't stop teams from scoring

Wasps slog into 2011

DAVE JOHNSON InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE —
The field was a bit messy for a preseason rugby match between the Stoney Creek Camels and Niagara Wasps last Saturday, but the two teams found enough dry spots to run up the field and score.

Bill Tyler, the Wasps director of rugby, said the game was a friendly with Stoney Creek and the Niagara team rotated the players it had to give everyone a chance to play for the first time.

teams play in different leagues and the game Saturday wasn't a full game, rather four 20-minute quarters, instead of two 40 minute halves.

Stoney Creek is in the Marshall Premier League, while Niagara plays in Marshall Provincial League. "We beat them last year and they beat us this year."

The game ended with the Camels doubling the Wasps 40-20. Despite the muddy

conditions, Tyler said it was a good game. "It helped get the cobwebs out," he said.

The Wasps regular season starts May 14 on their home field on the Second Concession in Fort Colborne with a doubleheader against Brampton Beavers. Action gets underway with the No. 1 squads taking the field at 1:30 p.m. The second game between the No. 2 men's teams starts at

More information on the team can be found at www.niagararugby. com.

n djohnson@ r wellandtribune.ca

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INPORTANEWS

Published by InPort News Sun Media Corp. 228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5 Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660

inport@wellandtribune.ca Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager Dave Johnson, Inport News senior reporter



Ourview

Arts of the South Coast

he city is looking at creating an arts and culture route that residents and tourists will be able to experience, with map in hand, heginning this fall. It's looking to feature hetween 30 and 35 artists. It's a great idea, hecause Port Colhorne has a thriving arts

community. The city has a mix of studios, galleries and artists. like Arts Place Gallery, Mark Ricker Studio, Whispering Pines Art Studio and Gallery, to name but a few Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters said there are many artists in the area worthy of the recognition and we couldn't agree with

her more. More people should know the work of local artists. Whether you're an art lover or not, this proposed arts and culture route has the potential to bring more recognition to local artists and help hoost the economy as well. Art lovers will come to the community if they know where to go to find great art. Bring those people into the area and hopefully, after they huy some local art, they'll stick around to see what else the community has to offer

Wainfleet's past in the future

Wainfleet is looking towards creating a cultural heritage plan, prescribed by the municipality's official plan, that would protect and enhance heritage resources in the community. The cultural heritage plan will consolidate and record cultural

assets in Wainfleet. The plan would provide township staff with an idea of what resources of heritage ment can be protected. Council suggested having members from existing organizations such as Wainfleet Historical Society and Marshville Heritage Committee as members on hoard to help form the plan. Those two groups certainly would know what assets the township has.

The plan is a great idea and we look forward to seeing what the township comes up with

Well-kept secret

- Port Colbome has a well-kept secret everyone should know about - the Niagara Wasps RFC. The Wasps, based on Second Concession between Miller and
- Miller Rds., were established in 1952 and are home to men's, women's, junior teams and minor rugby. It maintains affiliations with provincial and national representative teams as well as several regional over 35's clubs. It supports many of the local high school rugby teams and elementary flag rugby.
- The club has two fields on which games are played and opens its
- If you've never see a rugby game before, go check out the Wasps wesbsite — www.niagararugbv.com — see when they play and take in a game. You'll enjoy the fast pace and the hard tackling as players try and score

I'VE BEEN THINKING

Weddings and marriage

REV STEVEN DAVIS Central United Church

It's heen hard to miss recently: the coverage of the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton has been all over the news, and has just in the last few hours concluded as I write this. There are diverse opinions about the event - some think it's received too much coverage; others have loved the coverage. Regardless, I think one thing can he said without hesitation. It says to the navsayers (who helieve that marriage is increasingly irrelevant and unimportant) that marriage still has a place in our society.

This time of year (with or without the focus on a royal wedding) I find my thoughts turning to weddings, because the "summer rush" is approaching. I have several weddings on my calendar over the next few months, and I approach each of them as a privilege. Through them I get to meet interesting and wonderful couples and their families and it's somehow humbling to know that my name (or at least my signature) will accompany them on their life together. I pray for the couples who I marry: I pray for their happiness, and I pray that in the inevitable times when things may not be as happy as they are now that they'll have the commitment to stick it out. I've found over the years

that most troubled times can be seen through: it's just a matter of working at it. I'm not suggesting that there are no circumstances under which marriages should end. Some turn out for whatever reason to simply he unhealthy or even toxic relationships that are best left hehind, but many that end could

perhaps be saved with a bit of extra effort. That's why I generally insist that couples I marry use the traditional vows which speak of "for hetter or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow," Any normal marriage includes all of those times. To expect otherwise would be

I suspect that one of the problems that has arisen in our understanding of and appreciation for marriage as an institution is directly related to the "throw-away" society that has

developed in recent decades. We've been taught to believe that when something begins to break down. rather than fix it we simply throw it away and get something new, Today, even when something isn't hreaking down we often throw it away just to get the newest thing, and those who don't have the newest thing are looked on as somehow out of date; hehind the times. Perhaps we've come to treat marriage in the same way. When it isn't working as well as it should.

many choose to leave it behind rather than work at fixing it. I wonder if the "green" movement - with its emphasis on re-cycling, re-using and ending wastefulness might not lead eventually to a re-appreciation for marriage, and to a renewed desire to see ourselves

through troubled times in our relationships with our spouses. I hope so, anyway. The royal wedding is over. I wish

William and Kate well. They seem like a very nice young couple who have their heads on straight. I don't know

it's like to he a member of the Royal Family, hut I suspect that heing the future King and Queen of England (and Canada, etc.) carries with it significant challenges and pressures. I pray for them - that they will have the commitment that will surely be necessary as they face future

I pray for all who will be married at my church (and at any church or anywhere else) in the coming months. You know what? It won't always he a wonderful fairy tale. Remember that the wedding only lasts a day; the marriage lasts (I hope) for a lifetime. It will take work. Let your love be

the strength you need to allow your wedding to be the start of a lifetime commitment

■readers'views

Unanswered questions

Only last December Wainfleet residents hecame aware of the plan to put up just five industrial wind turhines in the municipality. There were enough unanswered questions regarding these industrial machines and the potential negative effects on the township and its residents that after debate and public meetings our council were concerned enough to vote on a motion to ask the provincial government to impose a moratorium on any industrial wind turbine whilst independent enquiries were made regarding the many unanswered questions that wind energy

companies and the province still Four short months later Wainfleet has learnt that IPC have already planned a second five, Rankin

refuse to answer

Construction intends to put up an additional eight and now Niagara Region Wind Corporation have heen approved for up to 20 in the township in the Wellandport area. With 40 of these industrial giants across Wainfleet's lands there will he no Wainfleet resident not affected.

Studies suggest that up to 15% of a community could suffer negative health effects, so that would he over 900 Wainfleet residents.

Even the wind energy companies themselves admit that blade flicker and blade noise can have a negative impact on communities in the vicinity of wind turhines. Industrial wind turbines are proved

to he unsustainable, unreliable, inefficient and uneconomic. They are heing forced on communities by an incompetent provincial government following the advice of the wind energy industry itself, who rely on

their huge potential profits entirely from additional taxes that we all will he forced to pay. Through the Green Energy Act hoth have stolen the community's right to decide if we actually want these huge monstrosities in our township.

Saturday, May 7 at 10 a.m. there is a community meeting at the Brethren in Christ Church on Highway 3. As a Wainfleet resident it is an opportunity to come out and talk to others and express your views.

I would urge everyone who is concerned about the future to come

out and take part The wind energy companies claim they will monitor the effects of these machines only after they are up and

running. By then it will be too late for Wainfleet. You do need to come out and take part. Andrew Watts

Wainfleet

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Love in hindsight, as Mother's Day approaches



BYGFORGE egular readers of this pace may remember my anti-Valentine's Day rant

back on Feb. 11. It was the one where I took a major shot at Cupid's special annual day of love. The beadline and subheadline read as follows: "Valentine's Day? No

Hallmark occasion has the authenticity of a reality show" Not making that mistake again, No siree, My editor, who also

happens to share a house and marriage with me, reads my columns each week before I send them off to The Tribune.

"Don't bother getting me anything for Valentine's Day," she said curtly, with a distinct glare in her eyes. after reading my rant about the day of love merely being a Hallmark excuse to sell more

That was only the beginning.

I get stopped fairly frequently around town; in Food Basics, at the Farmers' Market, at Meridian, at No Frills. It's folks - often strangers - who just want to chat about the latest column. I love people so this kind of interaction is fun. Always has been, even in my days

URDOCH

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as managing editor of The

Tribune when the subject matter I was writing about was much more contentious

than what I do now. That particular week, the week of Valentine's Day, the first question out of most mouths was, "What were you so angry about?"

I went back and read the rant and thought, wow, what WAS I so angry about? I mean, here's a sampling

of what I wrote in that piece that appeared three days before Cupid's day: "At the risk of sounding

unromantic, I detest Valentine's Day. Absolutely can't stand it. If you only ever hear 'I love you' on Feb. 14, you

have a problem - ditch your partner and start over again. He/she doesn't deserve you.

If you only get flowers and/or other thoughtful gifts on Feb. 14, see the previous

If you only ever get a warm embrace and tenderness on Feb. 14, see two sentences ago.

Hmmm. It really did come across much more harshly than I intended it to. My point, really, was simply that Valentine's Day should be every day.

I was nine in 1965 when Jackie DeShannon took the Burt Bacharach/Hal David song, What the World Needs Now Is Love, and turned it into world really did need a good dose of love.

Racial tension in the U.S. was exploding across the country: the Vietnam War was in full swing: the Cold War with the U.S.S.R. had everyone on edge. You get the idea. And I remember thinking as

a kid, "yeah, that's exactly right, that's exactly what the world needs" And I've never really wavered from that philosophy, thanks to that one tune which made such an impression on a young mind. I'll thank Bacharach/David and Jackie

DeShannon to my grave for I wish I had put all this into

the anti-Valentine's Day rant, which most certainly was not an anti-love rant I ended that Pri., Feb. 11 column as follows:

"So come Monday, should everyone say 'I love you' to their significant other? By all means, absolutely. But they should remember to say it Tuesday, And Wednesday, And Thursday, And Friday ... Which brings me to Mother's Day, Gingerly

See DUMA | page 7





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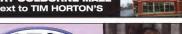
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My mom was an amazing woman

I had the most amazing mother anybody could wish for. My mom was an amazing. incredible woman who lived through and accomplished so much during her 80-plus vears as to be a natural role model for me. She was kind loving, affectionate, strong and supportive. To think there should

be one day a year when I would thank her for all those qualities was always preposterous to me. Still is But I realize with Mother's Day, as I do with Valentine's

Day, that there is nothing wrong at all with setting aside one day a year where we commemorate. It's what we, as humans, are fond of doing, So let's do lust that, Let's commemorate love on Valentine's Day, let's commemorate mothers on the first Sunday of every May. it at the expense of the other 364 days a year.

I still hope Valentine's Day can be every day and I still hone Mother's Day is every day.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@cozeco.

But I just hope we don't do Believe it or not but... Summer *is* Co

It may not feel like it right now, but summer is coming. Soon enough the sun will be scorching hot and the beach's will be packed. Are you ready?

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Sandie Bingley

Working dogs

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working breeds. The largest of the
Hungarian breeds is the Komondor. He
was used to guard sheep from predators
His flitch, heavy, way, beige coat helped
him to blend in with the sheep and then
launch a surprise attack on wolves or
launch a surprise attack on wolves or
The Komondor are very hardy, outdoor
dogs with great courage and a will to
flight to the death to save their sheep.
Today they are stable family and show

dogs.
The other Hungarian breed is the Kuvasz who originally could only be owned by noblemen. The Kuvasz was used as a large guard dog for the noblemen and soo they used him to hunt, herd and guard their flocks. He looks very much like the great Pyrenees with his beautiful white coar. He is still a great guard dog tod but he is also a devotted and gentle dog with children.

The Howawart and the Leonberger are two closely related German breeds. They were developed by crossing the St. Bernard with other mountain breeds to produce a smaller, more agile type of dog to be used as utility dogs with many jobs to do. They both have beautiful deep golden costs and they are good family dogs, friendly to children, obedient and

fearless.
One of the newest breeds in history is the Eurasier which is a spitz-type dog of meditum size. He was developed in Germany only 50 years ago. It looks like a small chow chow with a beautiful reddish-fawn coat. They are known for being mellow, calm, even tempered, quick to learn and eager to please. They are reserved with strangers but not

aggressive or guardy.

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■ WAINFLEFT

Heritage committee being examined

For InPort News

WAINFLEET - Could there be a committee that deals with

Munday said, as Wainfleet looks towards creating a cultural heritage plan, prescribed by the municipality's official plan, that would protect and

mittee and define its function as it evolves," said Ald. Betty Konc, who suggested having qualified members of the community as members, such as architects and consultants.



■ WAINFLEET

Heritage plan to consolidate and record town's cultural assets

FROM PAGE 12

Ald. David Wyatt suggested having members from existing organizations such as Wainfleet Historical Society and Marshville Heritage

Township council last Tuesday night received a report that provided an overview of tools available to preserve heritage resources in Wainfleet, including cultural heritage mapping and formation of heritage conservation districts.

According to the report the cultural heritage plan will consolidate and record cultural assets in Wainfleet. The plan would provide township staff with an idea of what resources of heritage merit can be protected.

Heritage conservation districts would permit council to create guidelines designed to protect heritage properties as redevelopment occurs.

"It becomes a new layer of approval." Munday said. "You have to review building permit applications to see if it applies

created. You can dictate the type of materials used on buildings whether it's residential or

"You (councillors) determine what's important.

WAINELEFT SUPPORTS MID-PEN CORRIDOR FA

The Township of Wainfleet supports an environmental assessment study for the first phase of the Niagara to Greater Toronto highway corridor.

Last Tuesday aldermen received a report regarding the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study while calling for township staff to send a letter to the Ministry of Transportation supporting its work on the process.

The purpose of the environmental assessment study is to provide the ministry with a plan for future transportation capacity within the corridor study area. The MTO

to the heritage district you've had requested input from the township on the draft plan.

In the council report, planning staff said supporting the work will lead to the implementation of measures that would protect Wainfleet's agricultural land while promoting the efficient movement of goods, such as agricultural products made in the

township. Township planning director Grant Munday said there is no specific mapping area on where the corridor would be

located "The mapping they (MTO) are doing is conceptual, Munday said. "There's no specific area chosen. It'd be past 2030 before the new corridor is considered. There's no specific

Ald, Richard Dykstra ques tioned why the MTO would need assessment studies now when development of the corridor is years away.



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butter or margarine; mix well 2. In another bowl combine flour, brown sugar, sea salt, bakin soda & almonds. Add to bran mixture: stir just until

blended (batter texture should be lumpy). Spoon batter into prepared muffin tin, fill three-quarters full. Bake at 375 degrees F for 25 minutes or until inserted

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1/2 cup melted butter or margarine 2. 21/2 cups all-purpose flour % cup packed dark brown sugar 1½ tso, sea salt 2 tsp. baking soda 1 cup sliced or slivered almonds

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■ MEETING: Mayor met Matthews on April 12

Patience for minister's response 'wearing thin'

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - Port Colborne is waiting with baited breath for word from Deb Matthews

The minister of health and long-term care met with several Niagara officials, including Port Mayor Vance Badawey, on April 12 to discuss health care in the region and changes to service that occurred after implementation of Niagara Health System's hospital improve-

ment plan. It's encouraging that the minister is "considering standing shoulder to shoulder with Niagara" to improve health care. Badawey told city council Tuesday night. but while adding "what really counts is going beyond consideration and executing.

While Matthews did spend more than an hour listening to what the Niagara delegation had to say, Badawey admitted he walked away "somewhat disappointed that she wasn't more decisive

Matthews gave "no indication," he said, about whether she would move forward with an independent review of the HIP, which has been

municipalities including the

Following the meeting, Badawey wrote Matthews a letter expressing detailed concerns he had with health-care services in Port Colborne





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Formulate a hypothesis es to possible root cause of feilure

Assemble products in accordance to factory procedures and specifications

 Function test product as required using procedures and specifications Perticipate in component conversion process

Other duties as required

Experience and Skills Required:

Graduate of a Mechanical Trades Program or equivalent in education and experience

Experience in a mechanical field, within an industrial environment

Fluid Power Technology experience an asser

 Ability to operate a tow motor and overhead crane
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Health care continues to be our community's number one priority



yself, along with Regional Chair Gary Burroughs, Niagara Falls Mayor Iim Diodatti Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin

and Welland councillor Frank Campion met with Health and Long Term Care Minister Deb Matthews on April 12th with respect to the resolutions passed by the City of Port Colborne and Regional Council

Minister Matthews listened. but gave no indication whether she would move forward with a review of the Hospital Improvement Plan's (HIP) performance

However, I have yet to let go of the opportunity to pass on information to the minister with respect to the state of

health care in Niagara, in particular, in the southern tier of the region, as well se contribute colutions to ongoing challenges.

Throughout the meeting and in further communication with the minister. I reinforced the need for a review to ensure all effects throughout Niagara are recognized due to the changes outlined in the HIP, such as those in Port Colborne and Fort Erie. The development of better policies and procedures with the present HIP implementation are necessary to standardize

all scopes of practice. The data from an independent performance review will ensure that these

scopes of practice by their own regulatory bodies are developed to include CTAS 3-5 at our hospital. We have made many queries as to the NHS STEMI (ST Elevated Myocardial Infarction) protocol, and have really never received an adequate and evidence based answer which

in its self answers the question - there exists no STFMI protocol at Port Colborne, As a matter of fact, the minister now recognizes that staff are told at Port Colborne General Hospital to call 911 if anyone experiences cardiac stress -

simply unacceptable. We need to know how many STEMI patients are going to Welland, at what point are they receiving ACT (Antithrombolytic therapy), and what has been the outcome for these patients. This review will again give us evidence hosped data to assist us to ensure that proper policies and procedures that include STEMI protocol are in place

in Port Colborne in light of

the changes to the delivery of

cardiac care within the overall system. Do we in fact have the proper personnel on our fleet of emergency response vehicles (ambulances)? Are we exhibiting best practice models of cardiac care? An independent consultant needs to answer this so we can build off of the numbers gathered, to make it better.

Do we have enough telemetry beds in Welland? What are the stats on the patients coming in with nonspecific chest pain? Do they go on to a heart attack?

Is Welland suffering with delays/wait times from our citizens travelling there for care? Is discharge care planning possible with multisite emergency care? These are components of a service plan that needs to be addressed in order to develop and execute our own Health Care Service Plan that is equitable and sustainable for all of Niagara

We know our numbers of patients that go to the UCC in Port Colborne are high, hence the need for the renovations to happen as quickly as possible. The minister is fully aware that we need the \$1.6 million in renovations to happen

immediately. We do not have a walk-in clinic in Port Colborne, and

do not believe that the walk-in model is the "best practice" for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion strategies - far from it.

In order to move forward with more team based primary health care delivery, we need the numbers and the consultants input as to the impact on the other sites since conversion.

Over the course of the last three years, we have recognized and communicated to the minister that Port Colborne Hospital can play an integral role in the overall Niagara Health System based on the blueprint we have introduced to the minister. That blueprint continues to grow.

Because of our blueprint's credibility, we continue to bring on new partnership opportunities to elevate equitable and sustainable health care for Port Colborne and all of Niagara. Most recently, Port Colhorne has been approached by

DeGrante School of Medicine to increase the numbers of medical students for clinical placements, and we continue to encourage academic appointments for all newly recruited physicians. A teaching facility right here in Port Colborne. This performance data will help us to know the demographics of the patients

who present to our hospital.

Although we feel encouraged that the minister is considering standing shoulder to shoulder with Niagara to improve on health care, what really counts is the minister walking the talk, going beyond consideration and executing the direction(s) we have established.

My intention is to follow up with Minister Matthews on the issues raised, expecting to receive an indication whether she will move forward with a review of the Hospital Improvement Plan's performance, as well as the much needed renovations at our hospital.

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